REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending. By way of the present amendment, claim 12 is cancelled, claims 1-10 are amended and new claims 13-20 are added. No new matter is believed introduced by way of the present amendments.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, claims 1-12 were objected to based upon a number of identified informalities. By way of the present amendment to claims 1-10, Applicants respectfully assert that the identified informalities have been rectified. Applicants respectfully request said objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In response, claims 1-8 have been amended to clarify the scope of the claimed method. As such, Applicants respectfully request said rejections be withdrawn.

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In response, claims 1-10 have been amended to correct the identified deficiencies. As such, Applicants respectfully request said rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as overlapping two different statutory classes of invention. In response, claims 1-8 have been amended to clarify the scope of the claimed method. As such, Applicants respectfully request said rejections be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action mailed October 16, 2008, claims 9-12 were indicated as being allowable upon a successful amendment overcoming the stated rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully assert that amended claims 9 and 10 as well as previously presented claim 11 have been placed in condition for allowance and confirmation of the allowability of claims 9-11 is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that independent method claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance for one or more reasons similar in nature to those articulated with respect to independent claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Paul Haun
Registration No. 53,003

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-3009